International Weather and Crop Summary

August 13 - 19, 2000

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries
provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Hot, dry weather in southern Europe increased stress on immature summer crops, but helped early-maturing summer crops.

FSU-WESTERN: Dry weather favored rapid winter and spring grain harvesting in Ukraine, Belarus, and southern Russia, while intermittent showers slowed harvesting in northern Russia.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Light to moderate showers favored filling spring grains in Russia, while continued warm, dry weather hastened crop maturity in Kazakstan.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Dry weather continued to reduce moisture supplies in Indochina, while scattered showers elsewhere maintained moisture supplies.

SOUTH ASIA: Additional flooding occurred in major rice areas.

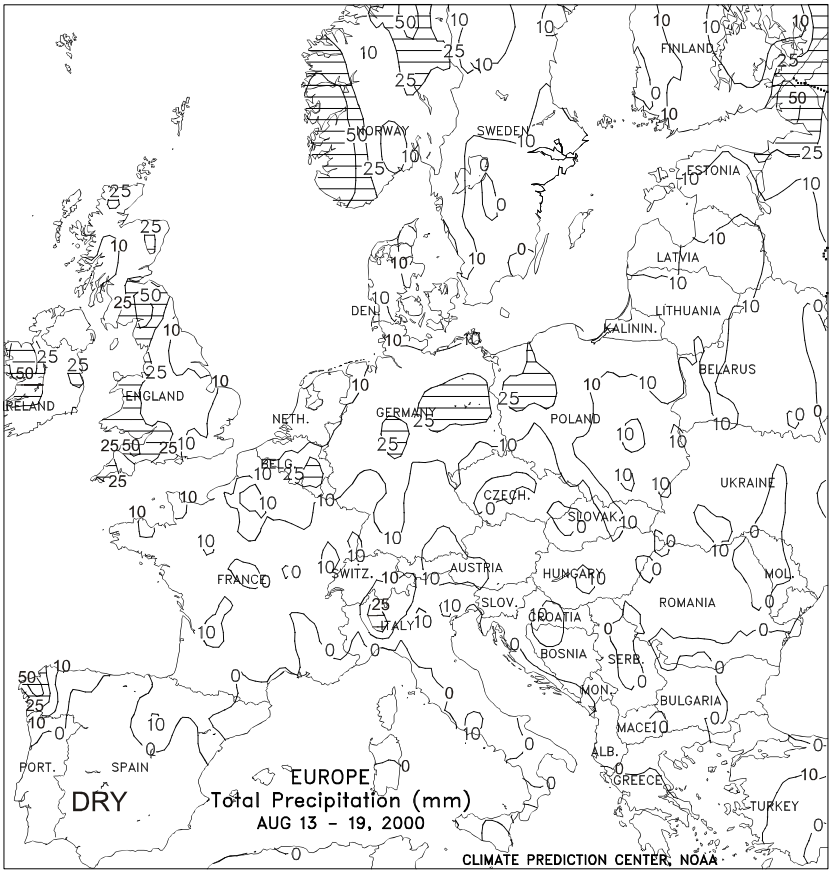
SOUTH AMERICA: In central Argentina, mostly dry weather favored late winter wheat planting, but reduced topsoil moisture across Buenos Aires.

AUSTRALIA: Beneficial showers continued in the western and southeastern winter grain areas.

EASTERN ASIA: Scattered showers brought limited relief to Manchuria, while dry weather reduced moisture supplies across the northern North China Plain.

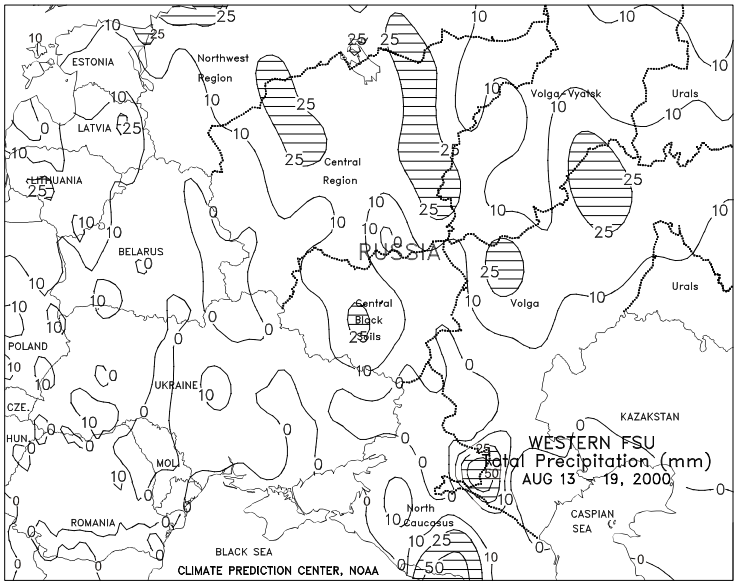
CANADA: Drier weather favored crop development and fieldwork across the Prairies and Ontario.

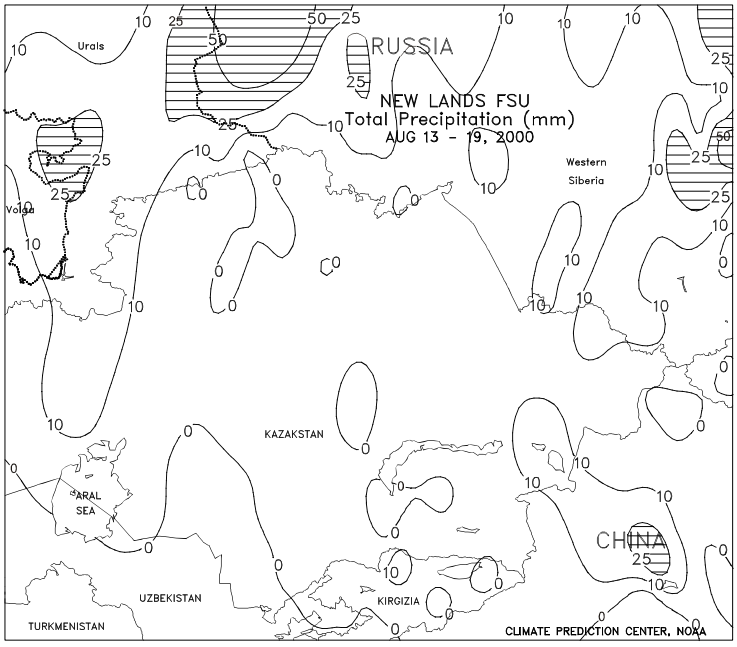
MEXICO: Widespread showers covered the central and western corn belt, boosting moisture supplies for corn.

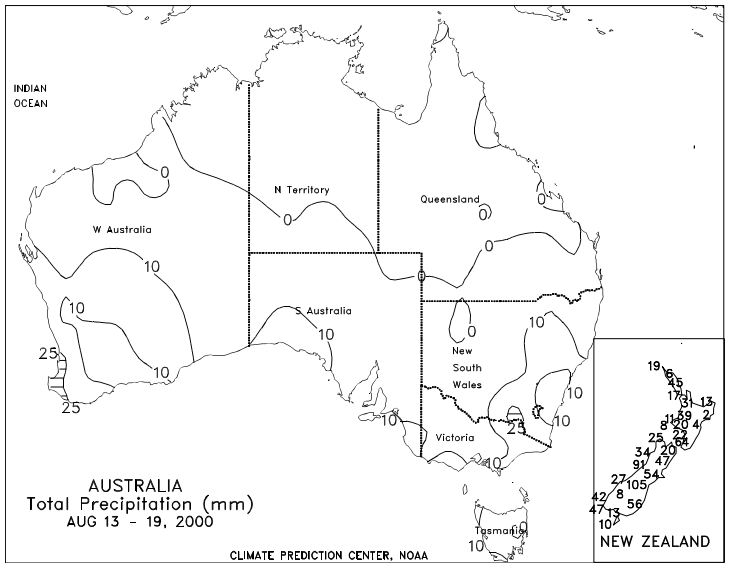


EUROPE

Despite light, scattered showers (5-21 mm) in major winter grain-producing areas of eastern England, the Netherlands, and southern Scandinavia, winter wheat and spring grain harvesting likely progressed with minimal delays. In western England, Belgium, northern Germany, and northwestern Poland, more widespread showers (13-41 mm, with locally higher amounts) hampered winter grain and oilseed harvesting, but helped filling summer crops. Elsewhere in northern and central Europe, variable showers (3-14 mm) fell from France eastward through southern Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary, causing brief, localized harvest delays. Winter wheat harvesting was reportedly nearing completion in central Europe. Farther south, dry weather in Spain and Portugal helped late winter wheat harvesting and maturing summer crops, but maintained irrigation requirements for filling corn, cotton, and rice. Light showers (3-13 mm) fell across parts of northern and central Italy early in the week, otherwise dry weather prevailed, aiding maturing summer crops. Similarly, isolated showers (3-21 mm) fell across the Balkans, Romania, Bulgaria, and northern Greece, having little impact on drought-stressed summer crops. Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in England and Scandinavia, and generally 2 to 6 degrees C above normal in central and southern Europe. The unseasonably warm weather benefited summer crops in northern and central Europe, where crop growth had been slowed by cool weather during July and early August. Hot weather (maximum temperatures between 35 and 43 degrees C) in the Iberian peninsula, Italy, and parts of southeastern Europe increased evaporative losses and stressed immature summer crops.







FSU-WESTERN

In Ukraine, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored rapid harvest activities. Reports from Ukraine as of August 17 indicated that the grain harvest was about 75 percent harvested. In southeastern Ukraine, however, prolonged dryness and periodic heat continued to reduce prospects for corn and sunflowers. In Russia, dry weather in southern areas (North Caucasus, lower Volga Valley, and the southern portion of the Central Black Soils Region) favored harvest activities, but limited moisture for filling summer crops (corn, sunflowers, and sugar beets). Farther north, intermittent showers (10-25 mm or more) fell from Central Region eastward through the northern portion of Central Black Soils Region and into Volga Vyatsk and the upper Volga Valley, slowing harvest activities. Reports from Russia as of August 16 indicated that spring grains and pulses, excluding corn, were about 35 percent harvested. Elsewhere, dry weather favored harvest activities in Belarus, where reports indicated that the grain was about 62 percent harvested by August 17. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Belarus, and 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in Ukraine, accelerating summer crop development.

FSU-NEWLANDS

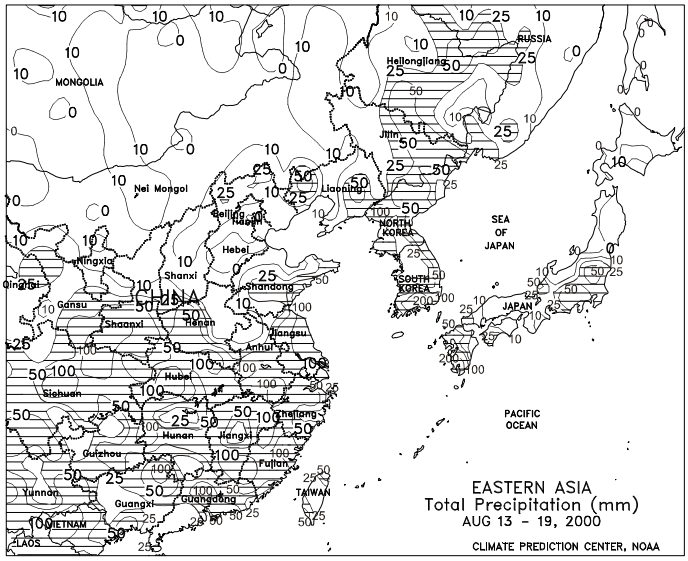
Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to prevail over primary spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazaks tan, hastening crop maturity. Reports as of August 18 indicated that the grain in Kazakstan was about 10 percent harvested. Harvest was just beginning in primary spring wheat-producing areas of north-central Kazakstan. In Russia, light to moderate showers (8-25 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia for the second consecutive week, favoring spring grains in the filling stage. The greatest amounts of precipitation (25-50 mm or more) were observed in western portions of Western Siberia. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakstan. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, hot, dry weather favored boll maturation, but maintained high irrigation requirements.

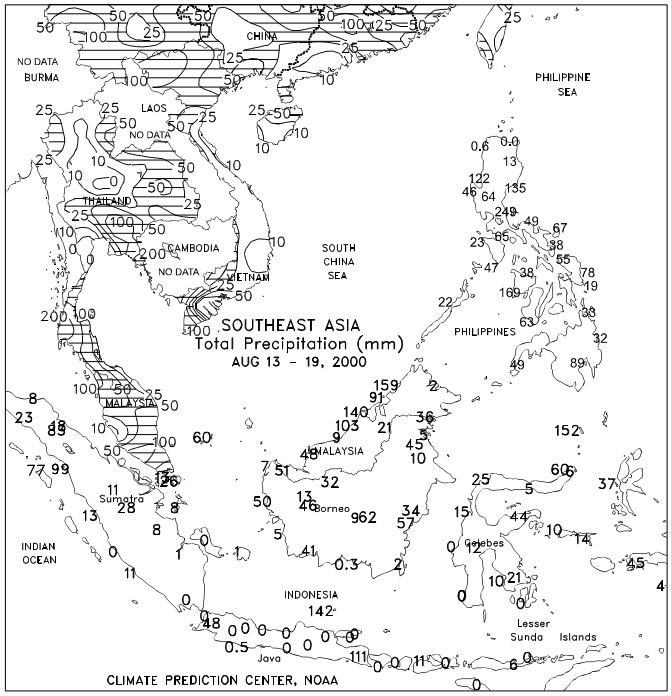
AUSTRALIA

Light to moderate rain (3-20 mm) swept across winter grain areas of Western Australia and the southeast (South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales), increasing topsoil moisture levels for greening wheat and barley. The moisture was especially welcomed in the northern and eastern growing areas of Western Australia, which received the heaviest rainfall of the spring thus far (10 mm or more in most areas). Seasonably mild weather in the west and southeast favored early crop development, although patchy frost likely burned back new growth. In Queensland, light showers (5 mm or less in most areas) continued in the primary winter grain areas, but more would be welcomed in upcoming weeks as crops advance through reproduction. Cooler-than-normal weather continued, however, across much of the east, limiting crop development. Dry weather favored fieldwork in sugarcane plantations along the coast. In New Zealand, a winter storm pounded central sections of South Island with heavy rain (50-100 mm or more), high winds, and localized flooding. Moderate rain (10-25 mm or more) covered agricultural districts elsewhere.

EASTERN ASIA

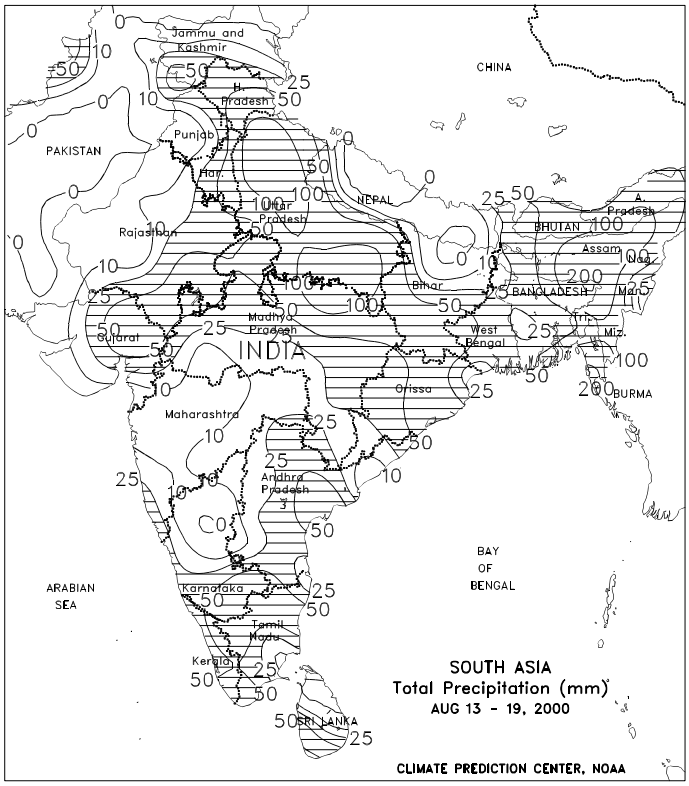
In Manchuria, scattered light to moderate showers (10-50 mm) brought some drought relief, but warm weather increased crop water demands, thereby reducing the beneficial effects of the rainfall. Temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees C above normal across the region, with the highest temperatures ranging from 29 to 32 degrees C. In the North China Plain, mostly dry weather returned to Hebei, northern Shandong, and northern Henan, also reducing moisture supplies. Widespread showers (30-75 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) covered the rest of the North China Plain, and central and southern China, boosting moisture supplies for summer crops. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across central and southern China. Showers (25-80 mm) continued to ease drought across North Korea. In South Korea, variable showers (5-60 mm) maintained moisture supplies, with the heaviest showers (150-300 mm) causing local flooding in the extreme south. On the southern Japanese Island of Kyushu, heavy showers (50-200 mm) boosted moisture supplies. In the rest of Japan, mostly dry weather prevailed except for central Honshu (10-60 mm). Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees above normal across the Korean Peninsula and Japan.





SOUTHEAST ASIA

Scattered showers (25-60 mm) in eastern Thailand maintained moisture supplies for rice, while elsewhere in Thailand, dry weather reduced moisture for rice. In Vietnam, dry weather reduced moisture supplies, but sunny weather favored rice development. Scattered showers (25-100 mm) fell throughout the Philippines, maintaining moisture supplies for sugarcane and main-season grains. Showers (50-100 mm) helped alleviate short-term dryness and aided oil palm in Peninsular Malaysia. Seasonally dry weather occurred across Java, Indonesia, where moisture remains favorable for irrigated second-season rice.

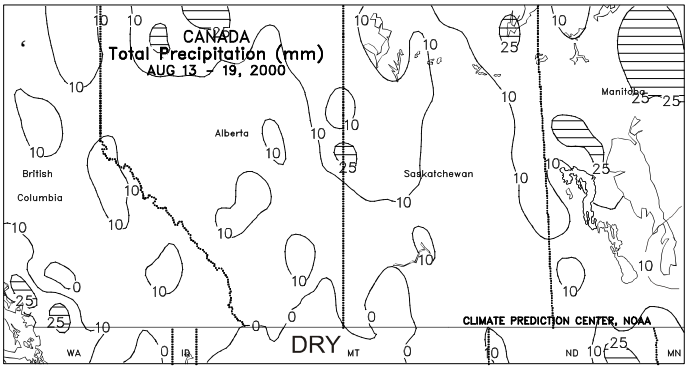


SOUTH ASIA

Locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered rice areas of northern and eastern India and Bangladesh, causing additional flooding in the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems. The rain increased irrigation reserves in the northern Indian cotton areas of Punjab and Haryana, but monsoon shower activity rapidly tapered off over Pakistan' s main growing areas. Moderate showers (10-50 mm or more) continued over most of central and southern India, further improving cotton and oilseed prospects, but dry pockets lingered over coarse grain and sugarcane areas in Maharashtra. Near-normal temperatures across the region favored development of coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton. The monsoon typically begins its seasonal withdrawal from Pakistan and northwestern India in early September, with the rainy season in central India usually lasting into October.

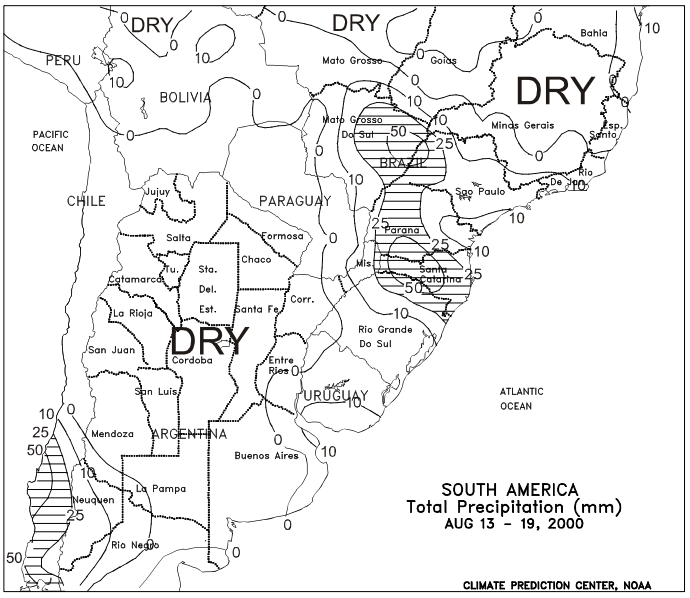
CANADA

Light showers swept across the Prairies, with just a few locations reporting rainfall in excess of 10 mm. The drier conditions were very timely as most areas had recently reported problems due to excessive moisture, notably with haying and other fieldwork. Temperatures averaging 1 to 2 degrees C below normal slowed the drying process, however, with lows commonly reaching the low single digits. Except for drought-stricken sections of southern Alberta, crop development is still slightly behind schedule, although spring grain and oilseed harvesting was underway in the more southerly agricultural districts. The first autumn freeze generally occurs in late August or early September, but crops are reportedly maturing rapidly and are expected to be out of danger soon. In eastern Canada, heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) caused localized field ponding and potential crop damage in southern Quebec. In contrast, mostly dry weather covered most major crop areas of Ontario, aiding haying operations, winter wheat harvesting, and summer crop development. Except for the earliest planted varieties, summer crops in eastern Canada are reportedly well behind schedule due to planting delays and low heat accumulations, necessitating warmer conditions for the remainder of the growing season. The first autumn freeze typically occurs in late September in the more northerly crop areas and early to mid-October in the Lakes region.



SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, mostly dry weather favored late winter wheat planting, but reduced topsoil moisture across Buenos Aires. Throughout the wheat-producing region, subsoil moisture is adequate. Seasonably warmer weather prevailed, with the highest temperatures ranging from 20 to 25 degrees C and the lowest temperatures ranging from 2 to -3 degrees C. According to the Argentine Agriculture Secretariat as of August 18, wheat was 98 percent planted, compared with 97 percent last year. In southern Brazil, widespread rain (5-35 mm) fell across the main wheat-producing areas of eastern Rio Grande do Sul, eastern Santa Catarina, Parana, and southern Mato Grosso do Sul, maintaining adequate soil moisture for winter wheat. Heavier amounts of 60 to 70 mm were reported in Santa Catarina. Temperatures averaged near normal across eastern wheat areas and 1 to 3 degrees C above normal from northern Parana northward.



MEXICO

Beneficial showers (25-70 mm) covered the central and western corn belt, boosting moisture supplies for corn. Drier weather (less than 10 mm) prevailed across the eastern and southern corn belt. On Tuesday morning, August 15, Tropical Storm Beryl made landfall in the state of Tamaulipas, 150 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, with sustained winds of 45 knots (52 mph). The storm produced only light showers (10-25 mm, with locally heavier amounts). Mostly dry weather was reported across northwestern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in the northeast.